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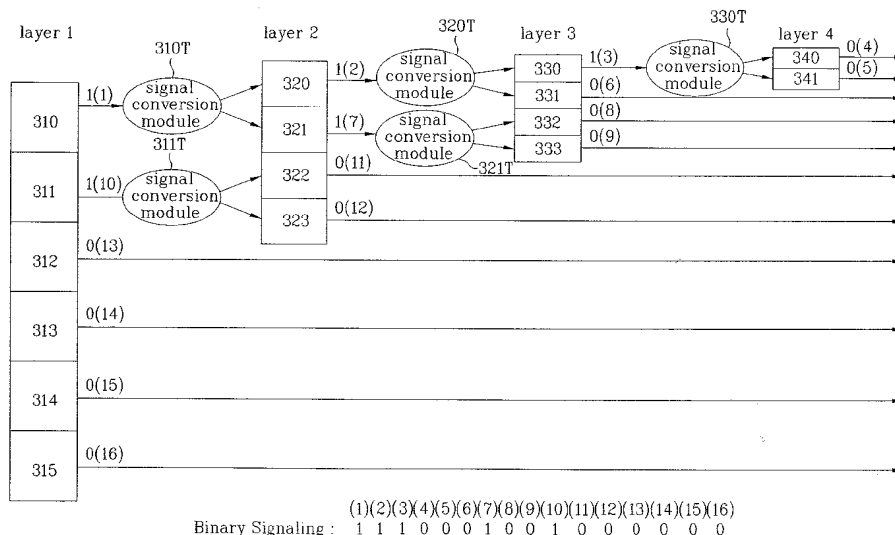
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(54) Title: METHOD FOR GENERATING ENCODED AUDIO SIGNAL AND METHOD FOR PROCESSING AUDIO SIGNAL



(57) Abstract: A method for generating an encoded audio signal, and a method for processing the same during the multi-channel audio coding are disclosed. The present invention provides the method for generating an encoded audio signal comprising: including basic configuration information requisite for a multi-channel audio coding process; and including extension configuration information, wherein the extension configuration information includes configuration information of extension environment which is identified by a type identifier (ID).

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**METHOD FOR GENERATING ENCODED AUDIO SIGNAL AND METHOD FOR
PROCESSING AUDIO SIGNAL**

Technical Field

5 The present invention relates to a multi-channel coding method, and more particularly to a method for generating an encoded audio signal and a method for processing the audio signal.

10 Background Art

 Generally, signals may be configured in various ways (e.g., a block, a band, and a channel.). The above-mentioned signals can be processed without being divided into several units within in a stationary period in which
15 signals can maintain predetermined statistical characteristics because it is an advantage to compress the signals.

 It is preferable for the signal to be divisionally processed in a transient period in which signal
20 characteristics are abruptly changed, because of the prevention of signal distortion.

 However, if a user desires to divisionally process the above-mentioned signals, there is no detailed method for signaling the divided information. Therefore, it is

difficult to effectively process the above-mentioned signals.

Disclosure of Invention

5 Accordingly, the present invention is directed to a method for signaling division information that substantially obviates one or more problems due to limitations and disadvantages of the related art.

 An object of the present invention devised to solve
10 the problem lies on a method for effectively signaling divided signals.

 The object of the present invention can be achieved by providing a method for generating an encoded audio signal comprising: including basic configuration information
15 requisite for a multi-channel audio coding process; and including extension configuration information, wherein the extension configuration information includes configuration information of extension environment which is identified by a type identifier (ID).

20

Brief Description of Drawings

 The accompanying drawings, which are included to provide a further understanding of the invention, illustrate embodiments of the invention and together with

the description serve to explain the principle of the invention.

In the drawings:

FIG. 1 is a conceptual diagram illustrating a
5 signaling method for block division information according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 2 and FIG. 3 are conceptual diagram
illustrating a signaling method for band and channel
division information according to an embodiment of the
10 present invention;

FIG. 4 is a conceptual diagram illustrating a method
for creating a multi-channel signal according to another
embodiment of the present invention; and

FIG. 5 is a conceptual diagram illustrating a
15 signaling method for channel division information
according to another embodiment of the present invention.

Best Mode for Carrying Out the Invention

Reference will now be made in detail to the preferred
20 embodiments of the present invention, examples of which are
illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

A signaling method for division information (also
called "splitting information") according to the present
invention will hereinafter be described with reference to

the annexed drawings.

The signaling method for the division information according to the present invention is classified according to signal categories.

5 Prior to describing the present invention, it should be noted that the above-mentioned signal is configured in various ways, for example, a block, a band, and a channel.

The above-mentioned "Signaling method" may include the meaning of "Signaling" or the meaning of "Recognition
10 of the signaled signal".

The term "Node" is a point indicating whether the signal is divided or not.

The term "Spatial Information" is information capable of downmixing or upmixing a multi-channel signal.

15 It should be noted that the spatial information is indicative of spatial parameters, however, it is not limited to the above-mentioned examples, and can be applied to other examples as necessary.

The above-mentioned spatial parameters are a Channel
20 Level Difference (CLD) indicating a difference in energy between two channels, Inter-Channel Coherences (ICC) indicating correlation between two channels, and Channel Prediction Coefficients (CPC) used for creating three channels from two channels.

Block division, band division, and channel division will hereinafter be described in detail.

1) Block Division

5 A block processing is required to compress consecutive data of a time domain in the same manner as in audio signals.

 The term "Block Processing" indicates that an input signal is divisionally processed at intervals of a
10 predetermined distance.

 In this case, the above-mentioned interval is defined as a block, and one or more blocks are combined to configure a frame.

 The above-mentioned frame is indicative of a unit
15 for transmitting/storing data.

 The term "Block Division" or "Block Splitting" is indicative of a specific process in which an input signal is changed to different-sized blocks during the signal processing.

20 The term "Block Size Information" is specific information indicating a block size acquired when the input signal is processed while being changed to different-sized blocks.

 Generally, if the signal is configured in the form

of a block, the signal processing is performed using a long block or a short block.

In the case of using the short block, several short blocks are combined, and the combined blocks correspond
5 to a single long block.

However, the signal has various characteristics for every interval, such that it is difficult to conclusively determine that all the signals can be processed according to the long-block signal processing scheme and the short-
10 block signal processing scheme.

Preferably, a specific-sized block is selected from among different-sized blocks suitable for signal characteristics within a specific interval, and the block division is then performed on the selected block.

15 In more detail, blocks are configured to have two or more different sizes. A predetermined-sized block from among the two or more different-sized blocks can be selected from the frame in various ways.

For this purposes, there is a need to indicate which
20 blocks are contained in a current frame, such that the signaling method is required for the above-mentioned operations.

The above-mentioned signaling method is classified into a sequential signaling method and a hierarchical

signaling method.

The sequential signaling method pre-defines the frame size (i.e., length denoted by "N"), and performs the signaling process using the number of minimum-sized
5 blocks M.

In this case, the frame length "N" is a multiple of a specific M. The frame size may be a fixed value, or may be a specific value capable of being transmitted to a destination as additional information.

10 For example, provided that N is 2048 (N=2048), M is 256 (M=256), and the blocks are arranged in the order of 256 → 256 → 1024 → 512, block size information may be signaling-processed in the order of M*1, M*1, M*4, M*2 → 1, 1, 4, 2 → 0, 0, 3, 1.

15 The hierarchical signaling method may be classified into a method for transmitting layer's depth information and a method for not transmitting the layer's depth information and a detailed description thereof will hereinafter be described with reference to the annexed
20 drawings.

FIG. 1 is a conceptual diagram illustrating a signaling method for block division information according to an embodiment of the present invention.

Referring to FIG. 1, each layer is denoted by a

layer, and the depth of the layer is set to "5".

A "Layer 1" includes a first block 210, which is the longest block used as a basic unit for block division, and the length of the first block 210 is N.

5 Reference numbers (1), (2), ..., (a), (b), (c), and (d) indicate exemplary binary signaling sequences.

According to the present embodiment, the block division information indicating whether the block is divided or not is represented by a division ID
10 (identifier) and a non-division ID. A specific number "1" is used as the division ID, and a specific number "0" is used as the non-division ID.

The above-mentioned division ID and the non-division ID are represented in nodes for each layer.

15 The division ID indicates that a predetermined block contained in an upper layer is divided into equal halves in a lower layer, and also indicates that a lower node is assigned to the lower layer.

The non-division ID indicates that a predetermined
20 block of the upper layer is not divided by the lower layer, and also indicates that any lower node corresponding to a node which is represented by the non-division ID is not assigned to the lower layer. To un-assign the lower node means that there is no performing

additional signaling operations.

Since the block division information (1) of the first block 210 has the value of 1 in the uppermost layer (i.e., the Layer 1), the block division of the first
5 block 210 is performed.

Layer 2 acting as the lower layer of the Layer 1 includes two blocks 220 and 221, each of which has the length of $N/2$.

Block division information (2) of the block 220
10 contained in the Layer 2 has the value of "1", and block division information (3) of the block 221 has the value of "1", such that Layer 3 acting as a lower layer of the Layer 2 includes four blocks 230, 231, 232, and 233, each of which has the length of $N/4$.

15 The block division information (4) associated with the block 230 contained in the Layer 3 has the value of "0". The block division information (5) associated with the block 231 has the value of "1". The block division information (6) associated with the block 232 has the
20 value of "1". The block division information (7) associated with the block 233 contained in the Layer 3 has the value of "0".

Therefore, according to the block division information of the Layer 3, the block division is not

performed on the blocks 230 and 233 of the Layer 3, but is performed on the blocks 231 and 232 of the Layer 3.

In this case, a lower node is not assigned to a Layer 4 acting as a lower layer of the above-mentioned
5 non-block-divided blocks 230 and 233 of the Layer 3.

The block-divided blocks 231 and 232 of the Layer 3 assign a lower node to a lower layer. And the presence or absence of block division is represented in the lower node.

10 Layer 4 has the length of $N/8$, and includes blocks 240 and 241 which are divided on block 231 of the Layer 3, and also includes other blocks 242 and 243 are divided on block 232 of the Layer 3.

The block division information (8) associated with
15 the block 240 of the Layer 4 has the value of "0". The block division information (9) associated with the block 241 of the Layer 4 has the value of "1". The block division information (a) associated with the block 242 of the Layer 4 has the value of "0". The block division
20 information (b) associated with the block 243 of the Layer 4 has the value of "0".

Therefore, according to the block division information of the Layer 4, the block division is not performed on the blocks 240, 242, and 243 of the Layer 4,

but is performed on the block 241 of the Layer 4.

In this case, a lower node is not assigned to a Layer 5 acting as a lower layer of the above-mentioned non-block-divided blocks 240, 242, and 243 of the Layer 4.

5 The block-divided block 241 of the Layer 4 assigns a lower node to the Layer 5, such that it indicates the presence or absence of block division in the above-mentioned lower node.

10 The Layer 5 has the length of $N/16$, and includes blocks 250 and 251 which are divided on block 241 of the Layer 4.

15 The block division information (c) associated with the block 250 of the Layer 5 has the value of "0". The block division information (d) associated with the block 251 of the Layer 5 has the value of "0".

Therefore, each of the blocks contained in the Layer 4 has the value of "0", such that the hierarchical block division is not performed any more, and a block division depth of the block can be recognized.

20 The layout structure of blocks capable of being hierarchically-block-divided includes an $N/4$ block (i.e., a block having the length of $N/4$), an $N/8$ block, an $N/16$ block, an $N/16$ block, an $N/8$ block, an $N/8$ block, and an $N/8$ block.

If the signal length is N , block-divided blocks have any one of the lengths (i.e., $N/2$, $N/4$, $N/8$, $N/16$, and $N/32$...), as represented by " N/x^i " (where $i = 1, 2, \dots, P$, P is an integer, and $x=2$).

5 In the case of representing block division information capable of being denoted by a binary number according to binary signaling sequences (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) (6) (7) (8) (9) (a) (b) (c) (d), the block division information can be denoted by 13 bits "1110110010000".

10 The above-mentioned description has disclosed an exemplary case in which the layer's depth information is not additionally represented, and can be recognized by only block division information denoted by the division ID and non-division ID.

15 However, it should be noted that the other block division information for additionally representing the layer's depth information can also be signaling-processed.

For example, the layer's depth information is represented by a division-termination ID and a division-
20 continuation ID.

The above-mentioned division-termination ID is indicative of the lowermost layer in which block division is not performed any more. The above-mentioned division-continuation ID is indicative of the remaining layers

except the lowermost layer. In this case, the division-continuation ID is denoted by "1", and the division-termination ID is denoted by "0".

The depth of the layer depicted in FIG. 1 is "5",
5 and can also be represented by "11110" using the division-termination ID "0" and the division-continuation ID "1".

The size of a sub-block can be recognized by the above-mentioned signaling method.

10 In this way, in the case of additionally representing the depth information, only the non-division ID can be represented at a node assigned to the lowermost layer, such that the signaling process can be performed in the range from a current layer to a previous layer of
15 the lowermost layer.

For example, provided that the division ID is denoted by "1" and the non-division ID is denoted by "0" and the division-continuation ID is denoted by "1" and the division-termination ID is denoted by "0", a specific
20 value indicating whether the node assigned to the lowermost layer is divided may be represented by "0" indicating the division termination.

2) Band Division

Band division will hereinafter be described with reference to FIGS. 2~3.

FIG. 2 is a conceptual diagram illustrating a method for signaling band division information according to another embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 2 shows hierarchical band division configured in the structure of a tree in a sub-band filterbank. A frequency resolution of the sub-band can be defined in various ways, and a detailed description thereof will hereinafter be described in detail.

Compared with the block division of FIG. 1, the band division of FIG. 2 includes a plurality of bands in the uppermost layer, whereas an uppermost layer of FIG. 1 is composed of a single long block.

According to the present embodiment, the band division information indicating whether the band is divided or not is represented by the division ID and the non-division ID. The value of "1" is used as the division ID, and the value of "0" is used as the non-division ID.

The division ID and the non-division ID can be indicated at nodes for each layer.

The division ID indicates that a band of an M-th layer is divided into equal halves at an (M+1)-th layer.

The non-division ID indicates that a band of the M-

th layer is not divided at the (M+1)-th layer and also indicates that that any lower node corresponding to a node which is represented by the non-division ID is not assigned to the lower layer. To un-assign the lower node
5 means that there is no performing additional signaling operations.

The Layer 1 acting as the uppermost layer includes first to sixth bands 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, and 315.

Band division information (1) of the first band 310
10 is denoted by "1". Band division information (2) of the second band 311 is denoted by "1". Band division information (3) of the third band 312 is denoted by "0". Band division information (4) of the fourth band 313 is denoted by "0". Band division information (5) of the
15 fifth band 314 is denoted by "0". Band division information (6) of the fourth band 313 is denoted by "0".

The above-mentioned band division information is indicated at the node assigned to the Layer 1.

According to the band division information (1) and
20 (2), the first band 310 creates a signal conversion module 310T, and the second band 311 creates a signal conversion module 311T, such that lower bands 320, 321, 322, and 323 are created in the Layer 2. Lower nodes are assigned to the lower bands 320, 321, 322, and 323. It

should be noted that the above-mentioned signal conversion module can also be called a "band conversion module" in the present embodiment.

In the meantime, the third, fourth, fifth, or sixth
5 band 312, 313, 314, or 315 at which there is no band division does not create the band conversion module. Lower bands corresponding to the Layer 2 are not also created in the third, fourth, fifth, or sixth band 312, 313, 314, or 315. Therefore, any lower node corresponding
10 to 312, 313, 314 and 315 is not assigned to the layer 2.

The Layer 2 includes two bands 320 and 321 which are divided on the band 310 of the layer 1, and also includes two bands 322 and 323 which are divided on the band 311 of the layer 1.

15 Band division information (7) of the band 320 is denoted by "1". Band division information (8) of the band 321 is denoted by "1". Band division information (9) of the band 322 is denoted by "0". Band division information (10) of the band 323 is denoted by "0".

20 According to the above-mentioned band division information (7) and (8), the band 320 creates a band conversion module 320T, and the band 321 creates a band conversion module 321T, such that lower bands 330, 331, 332, and 333 are created in the Layer 3. Lower nodes are

assigned to the lower bands 330, 331, 332, and 333.

In the meantime, the bands 322 and 323 at which there is no band division does not create the band conversion module. Lower bands corresponding to the Layer
5 3 are not also created in the bands 322 and 323. Therefore, a lower node is also not assigned to the bands 322 and 323.

The Layer 3 includes two bands 330 and 331 which are divided on the band 320 of the layer 2, and also includes
10 two bands 332 and 333 which are divided on the band 321 of the layer 2.

Band division information (11) of the band 330 is denoted by "1". Band division information (12) of the band 331 is denoted by "0". Band division information
15 (13) of the third band 332 is denoted by "0". Band division information (14) of the band 333 is denoted by "0".

According to the above-mentioned band division information (11), the band 330 creates a signal
20 conversion module 330T, and the lower bands 340 and 341 are created in the Layer 4. Lower nodes are assigned to the lower bands 340 and 341.

In the meantime, the bands 331, 332, and 333 at which there is no band division does not create the band

conversion module. Lower bands corresponding to the Layer 4 are not also created in the bands 331, 332, and 333. Therefore, a lower node is also not assigned to the bands 322 and 323. Therefore, a lower node is also not assigned
5 to the bands 331, 332, and 333.

The Layer 4 includes two bands 340 and 341 331 which are divided on the band 330 of the layer 3.

Band division information (15) of the band 340 is denoted by "0". Band division information (16) of the
10 band 341 is denoted by "0".

Therefore, there is no lower layer capable of performing the band division, and the signaling process is terminated. In this case, the lowermost layer is equal to the Layer 4.

15 In the case of representing block division information capable of being denoted by a binary number according to binary signaling sequences (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) (6) (7) (8) (9) (10) (11) (12) (13) (14) (15) (16), the block division information can be denoted by 16 bits
20 "1100001100100000".

FIG. 3 is a block diagram illustrating a signaling method for band division information according to another embodiment of the present invention.

Compared with FIG. 2, the band division of FIG. 3 is

similar to that of FIG. 2 in light of a method for performing the band division.

However, as shown in FIG. 3, a binary signaling sequence of the band division information in FIG. 3 is
5 different from that of FIG. 2.

Therefore, in the case of representing block division information capable of being denoted by a binary number according to binary signaling sequences (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) (6) (7) (8) (9) (10) (11) (12) (13) (14) (15) (16), the
10 block division information can be denoted by 16 bits "1110001001000000".

The above-mentioned description has disclosed an exemplary case in which the layer's depth information is not additionally represented, and can be recognized by
15 only band division information denoted by the division ID and non-division ID.

However, it should be noted that the other band division information for additionally representing the layer's depth information can also be signaling-processed.

20 For example, the layer's depth information is represented by a division-termination ID and a division-continuation ID.

The above-mentioned division-termination ID is indicative of the lowermost layer in which band division

is not performed any more. The above-mentioned division-continuation ID is indicative of the remaining layers except the lowermost layer. In this case, the division-continuation ID is denoted by "1", and the division-
5 termination ID is denoted by "0".

The depth of the layer depicted in FIGS. 2~3 is "4", and can also be represented by "1110" using the division-termination ID "0" and the division-continuation ID "1".

The size of a sub-band can be recognized by the
10 above-mentioned signaling method.

In this way, in the case of additionally representing the depth information, only the non-division ID can be represented at a node assigned to the lowermost layer, such that the signaling process can be performed
15 in the range from a current layer to a previous layer of the lowermost layer.

For example, provided that the division ID is denoted by "1" and the non-division ID is denoted by "0" and the division-continuation ID is denoted by "1", and
20 the division-termination ID is denoted by "0", a specific value indicating whether the node assigned to the lowermost layer is divided may be represented by "0" indicating the division termination.

3) Channel Division

Channel division information relates to channel configuration information used for channel configuration, such that a detailed description of channel division will hereinafter be described with reference to the above-mentioned channel configuration information.

Particularly, an example of channel configuration acquired when a multi-channel audio signal is encoded or decoded will be described in detail.

Basic spatial information is required for coding the multi-channel audio signal. The above-mentioned basic spatial information includes basic configuration information capable of indicating configuration information associated with basic environments and basic data corresponding to the basic configuration information.

Also, the multi-channel audio coding selectively requires extension spatial information. The above-mentioned extension spatial information includes extension configuration information indicating configuration information associated with extension environments and extension data corresponding to the extension configuration information. The configuration information of the above-mentioned extension environment may exist one or more. The above-mentioned extension

environment can be identified by a type ID.

In the meantime, the channel configuration referred by the above-mentioned multi-channel signal coding is mainly classified into two channel configurations, i.e.,
5 a basic channel configuration and an extension channel configuration.

One or more channel configuration information is used as the above-mentioned basic channel configuration information. Particularly, the basic channel
10 configuration information indicates a single channel configuration information selected from among several channel configuration information.

For the convenience of description, the basic channel configuration information is referred to as
15 "fixed channel configuration information", and multiple channels (i.e., a multi-channel) created by the fixed channel configuration information is referred to as a "fixed output channel".

Fixed channel configuration information and
20 associated channel configuration data are required to create the above-mentioned fixed output channel.

The fixed channel configuration information is indicative of a single channel configuration component from among several pre-established channel configuration

components. The above-mentioned pre-established channel configuration may be represented in various ways. For example, the channel may be configured in the form of "5-1-5", "5-2-5", "7-2-7", or "7-5-7".

5 The above-mentioned "5-2-5" configuration is indicative of a specific channel structure in which six input channels are down-mixed in two channels, and the down-mixed channels is outputted to six channels. The remaining channel configurations other than the "5-2-5"
10 configuration have the same channel structure as that of the "5-2-5" configuration.

 The above-mentioned fixed channel configuration information is contained in the basic configuration information, and data associated with the fixed channel
15 configuration information is contained in basic data.

 A variety of parameters may be used as the above-mentioned basic data, for example, a Channel Level Difference (CLD) parameter indicating a difference in energy between two channels, an Inter-Channel Coherences
20 (ICC) parameter indicating correlation between two channels, and a Channel Prediction Coefficients (CPC) parameter used creating three channels from two channels.

 The above-mentioned extension channel configuration indicates a channel configuration formed after the fixed

channel configuration.

The above-mentioned extension channel configuration is arbitrarily formed by encoded signals. For the convenience of description, the extension channel configuration information is referred to as arbitrary
5 channel configuration information, and the multi-channel created by the arbitrary channel configuration information is referred to as an arbitrary output channel.

The above-mentioned arbitrary channel configuration
10 information is contained in the extension configuration information, and is identified by a type ID called a channel ID.

The arbitrary channel configuration data corresponding to the arbitrary channel configuration
15 information is contained in the extension data.

If required, the above-mentioned arbitrary channel configuration data may use only the CLD parameter indicating a difference in energy between two channels for a simple operation.

20 The arbitrary channel configuration information is represented by the division ID and the non-division ID. The division ID acting as a constituent element of the above-mentioned arbitrary channel configuration information indicates the increase the number of channels.

The non-division ID indicates a specific case in which there is no change in the number of channels.

For example, the division ID indicates that one input channel is converted to two output channels. Non-
5 division ID indicates that an input channel is outputted without any change of number of channels.

In the case of representing the division ID at a node of an upper layer assigned to the channel of the upper layer, lower channels are created in the lower
10 layer, and lower nodes corresponding to the created channels are assigned to the lower layer.

However, in the case of representing the non-division ID at the node of the upper layer assigned to the channel of the upper layer, the lower channels are
15 not created in the lower layer, such that lower nodes corresponding to the lower channels are not assigned to the lower layer.

A method for representing the above-mentioned arbitrary channel configuration information using the
20 division ID and the non-division ID will hereinafter be described with reference to FIGS. 2~3.

FIGS. 2~3 show not only the above-mentioned band division but also channel division.

Detailed description of FIG. 2 will be firstly

described as follows.

The Layer 1 acting as the uppermost layer includes six bands 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, and 315. The aforementioned bands 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, and 315 may
5 serve as the above-mentioned fixed multi-channels, respectively. According to the present invention, the division ID is denoted by "1", and the non-division ID is denoted by "0".

A method for representing the arbitrary channel
10 configuration information sequentially indicates the value "0" or 1" contained in the nodes assigned to the channels 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, and 315 of the Layer 1.

The method for representing the arbitrary channel configuration information sequentially indicates the
15 value "0" or 1" contained in the nodes assigned to the channels 320, 321, 322, and 323 of the Layer 2.

The method for representing the arbitrary channel configuration information sequentially indicates the
20 value "0" or 1" contained in the nodes assigned to the channels 330, 331, 332, and 333 of the Layer 3.

The method for representing the arbitrary channel configuration information sequentially indicates the
value "0" or 1" contained in the nodes assigned to the channels 340 and 341 of the Layer 4.

In other words, the above-mentioned method sequentially indicates whether the number of channels increases at nodes of the upper layer, and then sequentially indicates whether the number of channels
5 increases at nodes of the lower layer.

The arbitrary channel configuration information according to the above-mentioned method is represented by 16 bits "1100001100100000".

For the convenience of description, the method for
10 representing the arbitrary channel configuration information is referred to as a "hierarchical priority method".

According to the method for representing the arbitrary channel configuration information as shown in
15 the FIG. 3, if a first node of a upper layer is denoted by "1" when the signaling result is acquired from the first node of the upper layer, lower nodes corresponding to the first node of the upper layer indicate whether the number of channels sequentially increases. If the first
20 node of the upper layer is denoted by "0" when the signaling result is acquired from the first node of the upper layer, a current node moves to a second node of the upper, such that the second node indicates that the number of channels sequentially increases. Therefore, the

arbitrary channel configuration information acquired by the above-mentioned method is represented by 16 bits "1110001001000000".

For the convenience of description, the method for
5 representing the arbitrary channel configuration information is referred to a "branch priority method".

A method for creating the fixed output channel and the arbitrary output channel will hereinafter be described with reference to FIG. 4.

10 FIG. 4 is a conceptual diagram illustrating a method for creating a multi-channel signal according to the present invention.

Referring to FIG. 4, an arbitrary output channel (y) is created by calculation between a down-mix signal (x) and a basic matrix (m1), and another arbitrary output
15 channel (z) is created by calculation between a fixed output channel (y) and a post matrix (m2). Two or more basic matrixes (m1) may exist as necessary.

Configuration elements of the basic matrix (m1) may
20 be acquired by using at least one of CLD, ICC, CPC and the above-mentioned fixed channel configuration information.

Configuration elements of the post matrix (m2) may be acquired by using CLD and the above-mentioned

arbitrary channel configuration information.

A method for creating the arbitrary output channel will hereinafter be described in detail.

Firstly, a method for configuring an arbitrary
5 channel using the arbitrary channel configuration information will be described in detail.

An exemplary method for representing the above-mentioned arbitrary channel configuration information using the above-mentioned branch priority method will be
10 described.

The above-mentioned exemplary method sequentially recognizes the division ID and the non-division ID, which act as the configuration components of the arbitrary channel configuration information, and performs the
15 signal processing according to the recognized ID.

If the recognized ID is determined to be the division ID, a single input channel is connected to the channel conversion module which is an example of the signal conversion, resulting in the creation of two lower
20 channels.

Otherwise, if the recognized ID is determined to be the non-division ID, the above-mentioned input channel is outputted without any change of the number of channels.

A detailed description thereof will hereinafter be

described.

At a first stage, an initial value of the number of IDs to be decoded is set to "1", and an initial value of the number of arbitrary output channels is set to "0",
5 and an initial value of the number of channel conversion modules is set to "0".

At a second stage, an ID to be decoded is recognized.

At a third stage, if the recognized ID is determined to be the division ID, the number of channel conversion
10 modules increases by 1, and the number of IDs to be recognized increases by 1.

If the recognized ID is determined to be the non-division ID, the number of arbitrary output channels increases by 1, and the number of IDs to be recognized is
15 decreased by 1.

Until the number of IDs to be decoded reaches "0", the above-mentioned second and third stages are repeated.

The above-mentioned signal processing method is repeated according to the number of fixed output channels.

20 For example, the arbitrary channel configuration acquired when the arbitrary channel configuration information is denoted by "11100010010000" is shown in FIG. 3. In this case, the "1" means the division ID, and "0" means the non-division ID.

The number of "1"s indicates the number of channel conversion modules (i.e., a signal conversion module of FIG. 3), and the number of "0"s indicates the number of arbitrary output channels.

5 In the meantime, the fixed output channels may be rearranged (i.e., re-mapped) in different orders, and the arbitrary output channel may be then created, as shown in FIG. 5.

FIG. 5 is a conceptual diagram illustrating a method
10 for signaling channel division information according to the present invention.

Referring to FIG. 5, the fixed output channels 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, and 315 are re-arranged by the re-mapping module 100. The re-arranged fixed output channels
15 310', 311', 312', 313', 314', and 315' act as the channels of the uppermost layer, such that the above-mentioned arbitrary output channel is created. Needless to say, the above-mentioned arbitrary output channels may be re-arranged or re-mapped in different orders.

20 In the meantime, if channel mapping information for mapping the channels of the arbitrary channel configuration information to a speaker is contained in the arbitrary channel configuration information, the arbitrary output channel may also be mapped to the speaker.

The above-mentioned description has disclosed an exemplary case in which the layer's depth information is not additionally represented, and can be recognized by the arbitrary channel configuration information denoted
5 by the division ID and non-division ID.

However, it should be noted that the other arbitrary channel configuration information for additionally representing the layer's depth information can also be represented.

10 For example, the layer's depth information is represented by a division-termination ID and a division-continuation ID.

The above-mentioned division-termination ID is indicative of the lowermost layer in which channel
15 division is not performed any more. The above-mentioned division-continuation ID is indicative of the remaining layers except the lowermost layer. In this case, the division-continuation ID is denoted by "1", and the division-termination ID is denoted by "0".

20 The depth of the layer depicted in FIGS. 2~3 is "4", and can also be represented by "1110" using the division-termination ID "0" and the division-continuation ID "1".

In this way, in the case of additionally representing the depth information, only the non-division

ID can be represented at a node assigned to the lowermost layer, such that the signaling process can be performed in the range from a current layer to a previous layer of the lowermost layer.

5 For example, provided that the division ID is denoted by "1" and the non-division ID is denoted by "0" and the division-continuation ID is denoted by "1", and the division-termination ID is denoted by "0", a specific value indicating whether the node assigned to the
10 lowermost layer is divided may be represented by "0" indicating the division termination.

Although the above-mentioned situation actually occurs, the lowermost layer can be recognized by the above-mentioned depth information, and it is assumed that the
15 omitted value "0" exists, such that the above-mentioned arbitrary output channel can be configured.

In the meantime, although the above-mentioned arbitrary channel configuration information is transmitted to the decoder, it should be noted that the decoder may not
20 use the received arbitrary channel configuration information as necessary. The above-mentioned operations of the decoder may occur in an exemplary case in which the decoder recognizes the arbitrary channel configuration information and the size of the arbitrary channel

configuration information, but skips over a predetermined range corresponding to the above-mentioned size.

It will be apparent to those skilled in the art that various modifications and variations can be made in the present invention without departing from the spirit or scope of the invention. Thus, it is intended that the present invention cover the modifications and variations of this invention provided they come within the scope of the appended claims and their equivalents.

10

Industrial Applicability

A signaling method for division information according to the present invention has the following effects.

Firstly, if a predetermined-sized long block is divided into different-sized short blocks, the above-mentioned signaling method according to the present invention can perform the signaling of the hierarchical block division information using minimum number of bits.

Secondly, the signaling method according to the present invention need not additionally transmit specific information indicating the number of bits used for the signaling process, and can recognize not only the depth of a divided layer by a signaled signal but also the end of the signaled signal.

Thirdly, the signaling method according to the present invention can divide a plurality of sub-bands into number of different-sized sub-bands (e.g., sub-bands having different frequency bandwidths) using a minimum number of
5 bits.

Fourthly, the signaling method according to the present invention can perform the signaling of specific information associated with an upmixing process, which allows a signal received in input channel(s) to be
10 outputted via many more output channels than the input channel(s).

What is Claimed is:

1. A method for generating an encoded audio signal comprising:

5 including basic configuration information requisite for a multi-channel audio coding process; and including extension configuration information, wherein the extension configuration information includes configuration information of extension environment
10 which is identified by a type identifier (ID).

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the basic configuration information includes fixed channel configuration information acting as configuration
15 information of a predetermined output channel.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the type ID includes a channel configuration identifier (ID).

20 4. The method of claim 3, wherein the configuration information of the extension environment identified by the channel configuration identifier (ID) is arbitrary channel configuration information.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the arbitrary channel configuration information indicates whether the number of channels increases at a node of a layer using a division identifier (ID) and a non-division identifier (ID) and number of lower nodes equal to the number of divisions are assigned to a lower layer if an node of an upper layer is represented by the division ID, and the lower nodes are not assigned to the lower layer if the node of the upper layer is represented by the non-division ID.

10

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the arbitrary channel configuration information sequentially indicates whether the number of channels increases at the node of the upper layer, and sequentially indicates whether the number of channels increases at the lower node of the lower layer.

15

7. The method of claim 5, wherein the arbitrary channel configuration information indicates whether the number of channels of a lower node corresponding to a first node of the upper layer assigned to the lower layer increases if the first node of the upper layer is represented by the division ID and the arbitrary channel configuration information indicates whether the number of channels of a second node of the upper layer increases if

20

the first node of the upper layer is represented by the non-division ID.

8. The method of claim 6 or claim 7, wherein the
5 division ID is information indicating that one input channel is converted to two output channels.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the non-division ID
is information indicating that an input channel is
10 outputted without any change of number of channels.

10. The method of claim 5, wherein the arbitrary
channel configuration information further includes channel
mapping information which maps an arbitrary output channel
15 to a location of a speaker using the arbitrary channel configuration information.

11. A method for processing an audio signal
comprising:

20 receiving an encoded audio signal including basic
configuration information requisite for a multi-channel
audio coding process and configuration information of
extension environment which is identified by a type
identifier (ID); and

configuring a channel of a multi-channel audio signal according to the encoded audio signal.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the basic
5 configuration information includes fixed channel configuration information acting as configuration information of a predetermined output channel.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the type ID
10 includes a channel configuration identifier (ID).

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the configuration information of extension environment identified by the type ID is arbitrary channel configuration information.

15

15. The method according to claim 14, wherein the arbitrary channel configuration information indicates whether the number of channels increases at a node of a layer using a division identifier (ID) and a non-division
20 identifier (ID) and number of lower nodes equal to the number of divisions are assigned to a lower layer if a node of an upper layer is represented by the division ID, and the lower nodes are not assigned to the lower layer if the node of the upper layer is represented by the non-division

ID.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the arbitrary
channel configuration information sequentially indicates
5 whether the number of channels increases at the node of the
upper layer, and sequentially indicates whether the number
of channels increases at the lower node of the lower layer.

17. The method of claim 15, wherein the arbitrary
10 channel configuration information indicates whether the
number of channels of a lower node corresponding to a first
node of the upper layer assigned to the lower layer
increases if the first node of the upper layer is
represented by the division ID and the arbitrary channel
15 configuration information indicates whether the number of
channels of a second node of the upper layer increases if
the first node of the upper layer is represented by the
non-division ID.

20 18. The method of claim 15 or claim 17, wherein the
arbitrary channel configuration information further
includes channel mapping information which maps an
arbitrary output channel to a location of a speaker using
the arbitrary channel configuration information.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the configuring the channel of multi-channel audio signal includes generating a fixed output channel using the fixed channel configuration information and generating an arbitrary output channel using the arbitrary channel configuration information.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein the arbitrary output channel includes sequentially recognizing a division identifier (ID) or a non-division identifier (ID) acting as configuration components of the arbitrary channel configuration information, and performing signal processing according to the recognized ID and a single input channel connects to a channel conversion module and generates two lower channels if the recognized ID is the division ID and the input channel is outputted without any change of number of channels if the recognized ID is the non-division ID.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein the generating the arbitrary output channel includes setting an initial value of number of IDs, an initial value of number of the arbitrary output channels, and an initial value of number of channel conversion modules, recognizing the ID,

increasing the number of the IDs and the number of the
channel conversion modules by predetermined increment units
if the recognized ID is the division ID, increasing the
number of the arbitrary output channels by predetermined
5 increment units, and reducing the number of the IDs by
predetermined increment units if the recognized ID is the
non-division ID, and repeating recognizing, increasing the
number of the IDs and the number of the channel conversion
modules, and increasing the number of the arbitrary output
10 channels and reducing the number of the IDs until the
number of the IDs reaches zero "0".

22. The method of claim 21, wherein generating the
arbitrary output channel further includes mapping the
15 arbitrary output channel to a speaker according to the
channel mapping information.

23. The method of claim 15, further comprising:
recognizing the arbitrary channel configuration
20 information and a length of arbitrary channel configuration
data corresponding to the arbitrary channel configuration
information without decoding for the arbitrary channel
configuration information and the length of arbitrary
channel configuration data.

FIG. 1

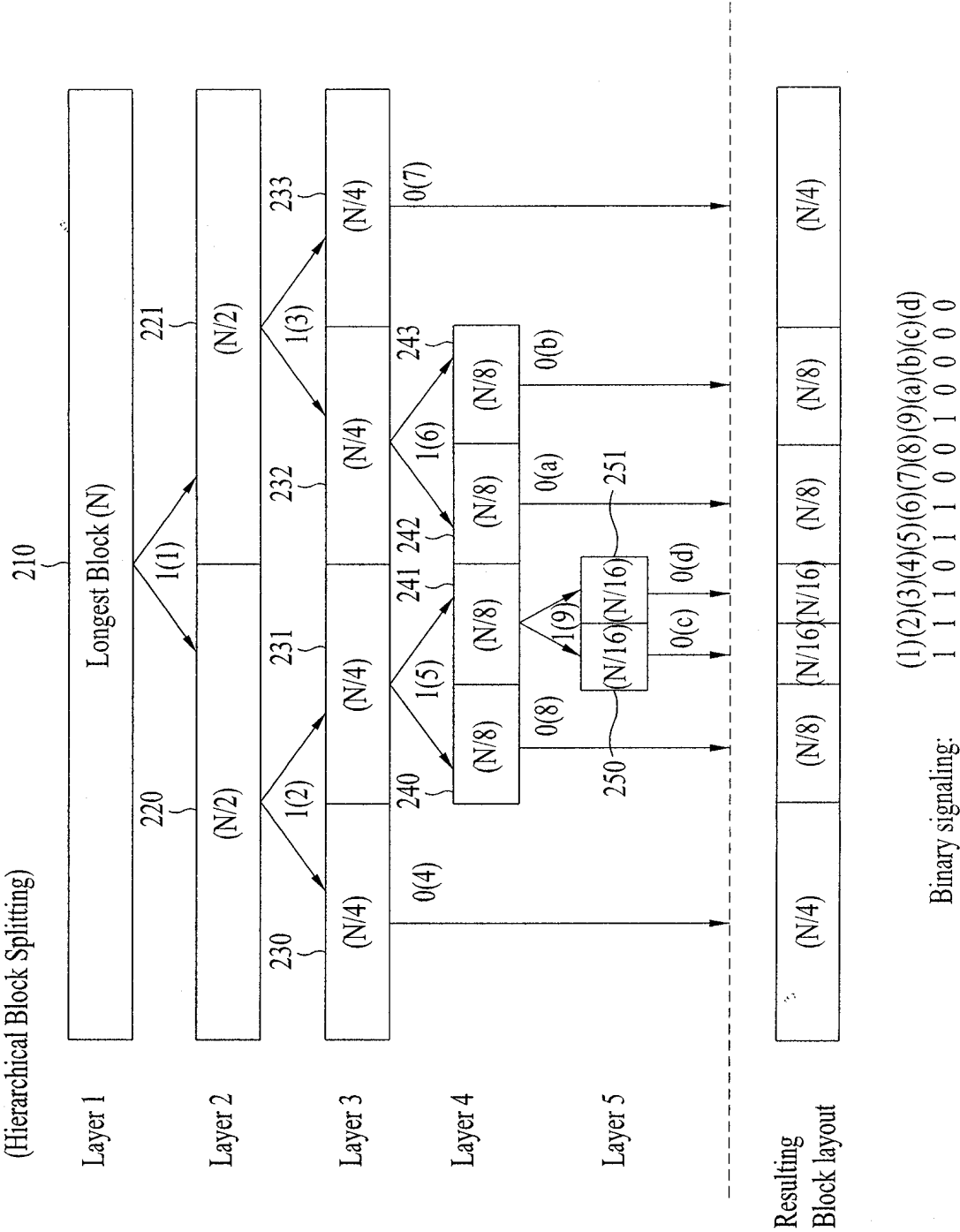
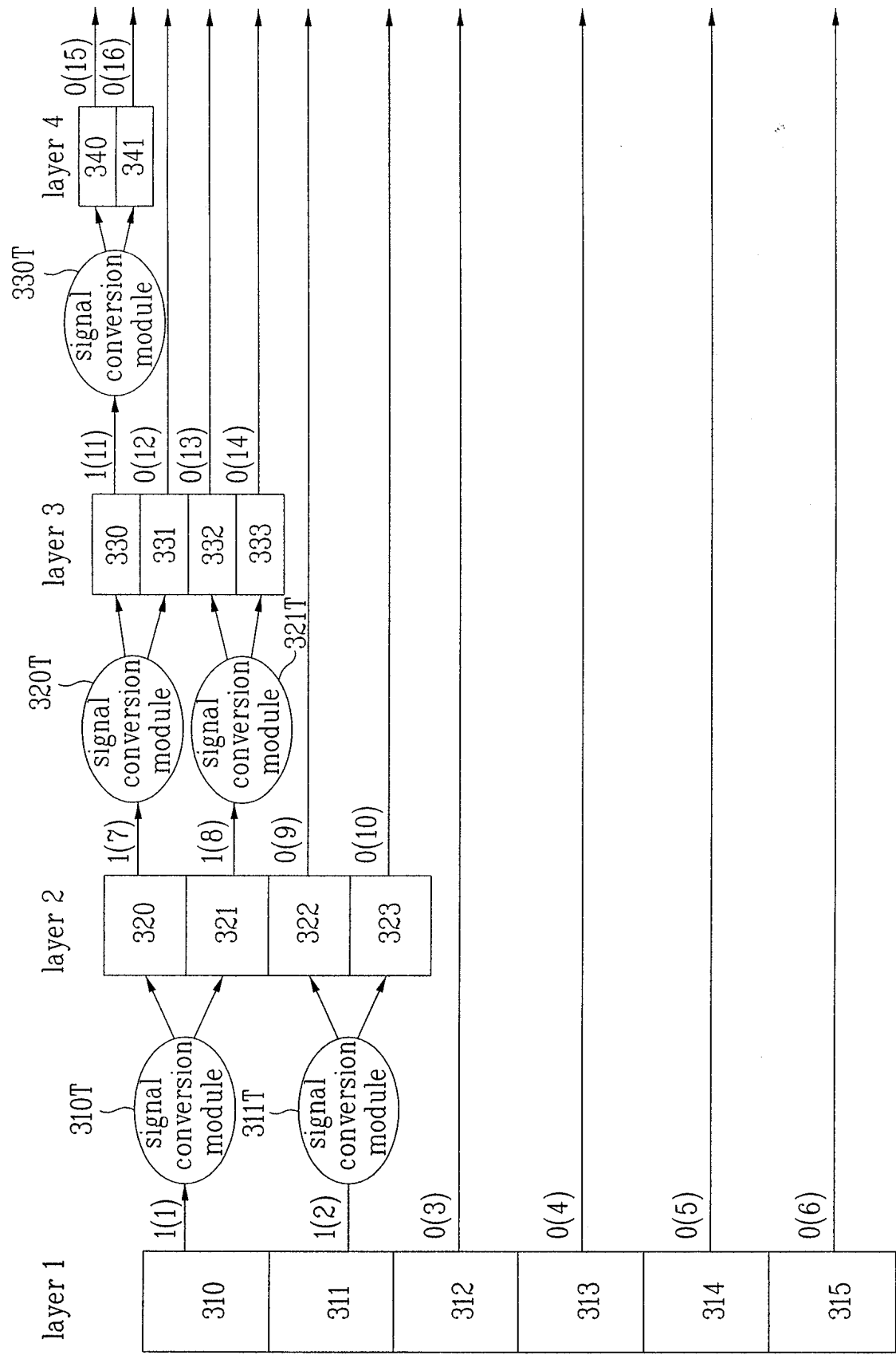


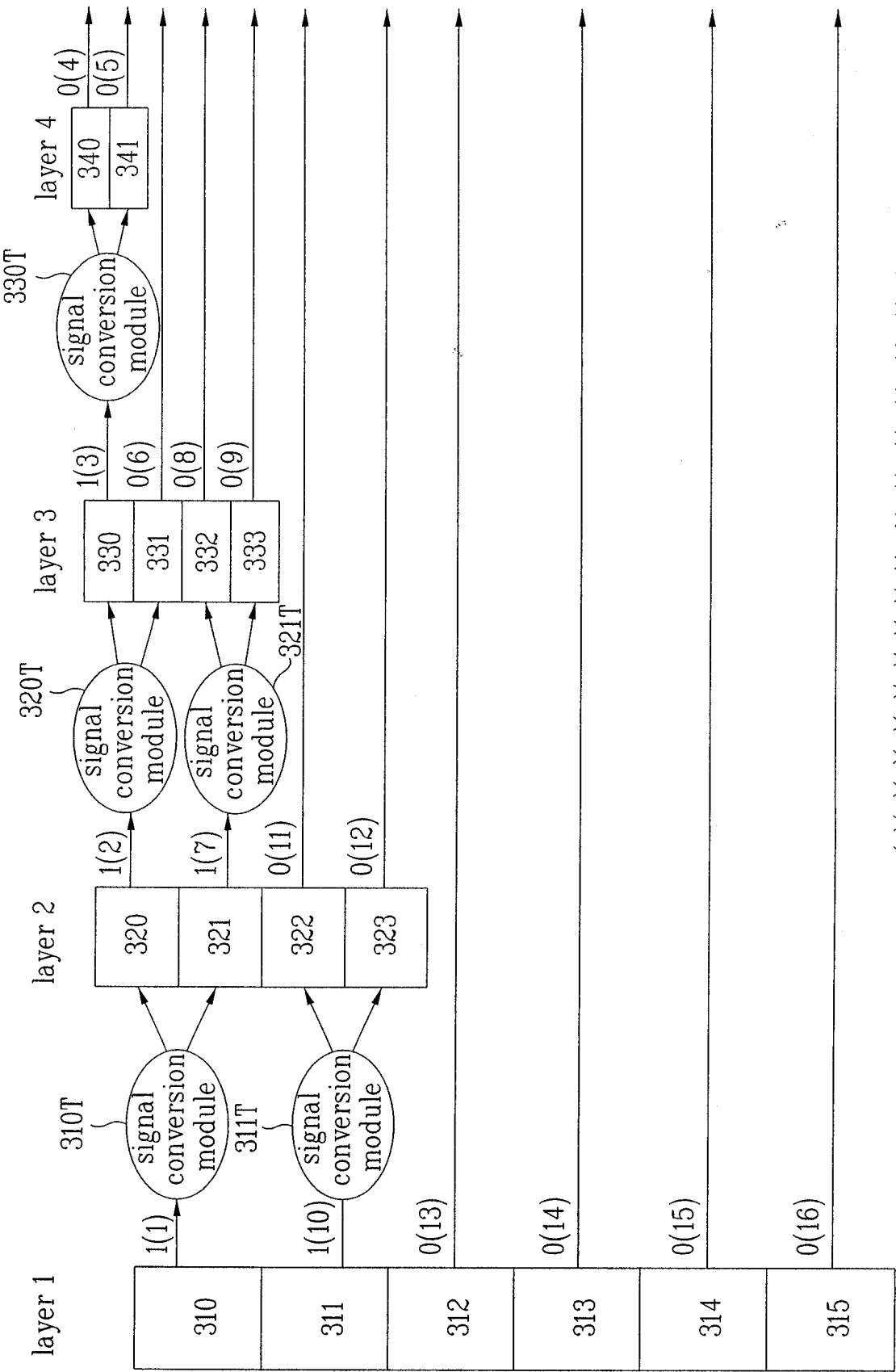
FIG. 2



Binary Signaling : 1 1 0 0 0 0 1 1 0 0 1 0 0 1 0 0 0 0

(1)(2)(3)(4)(5)(6)(7)(8)(9)(10)(11)(12)(13)(14)(15)(16)

FIG. 3



(1)(2)(3)(4)(5)(6)(7)(8)(9)(10)(11)(12)(13)(14)(15)(16)
Binary Signaling : 1 1 1 0 0 0 1 0 0 1 0 0 1 0 0 0

FIG. 4

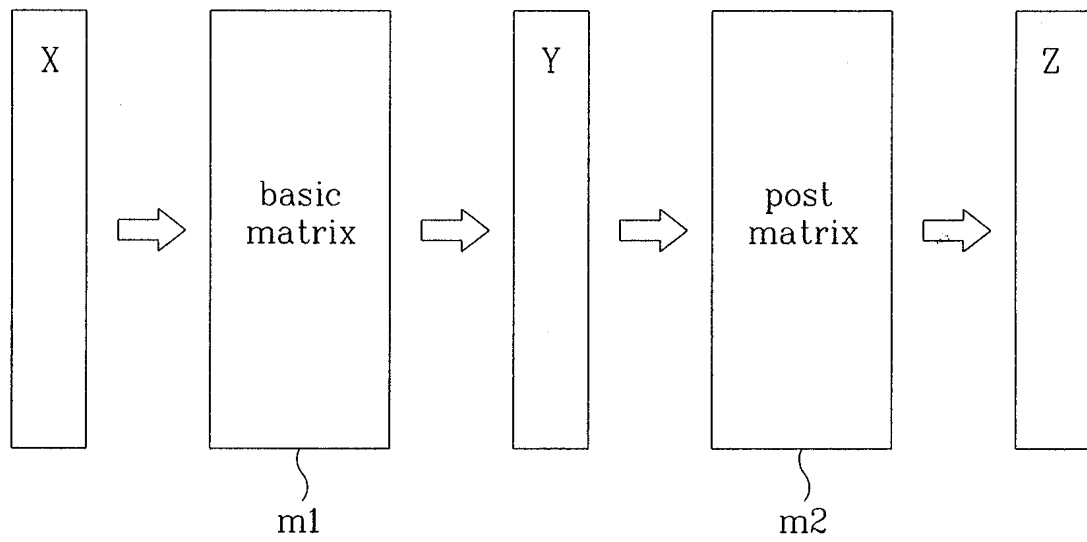
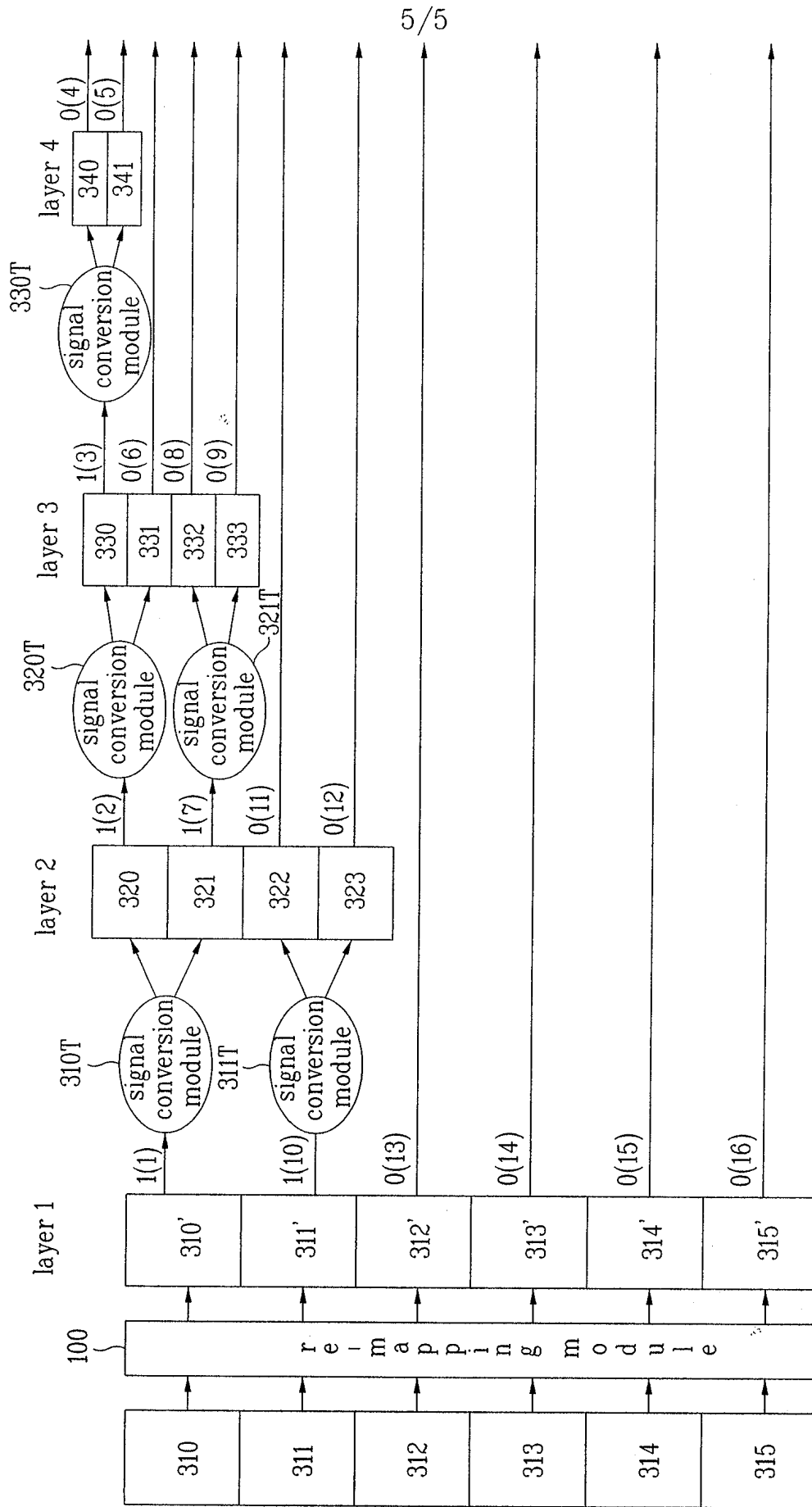


FIG. 5





5/5

(1)(2)(3)(4)(5)(6)(7)(8)(9)(10)(11)(12)(13)(14)(15)(16)
Binary Signaling : 1 1 1 0 0 0 1 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/KR2006/002985

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER <i>G11B 20/10(2006.01)i</i> According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC				
B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) G11B 20/10 G10L 21/00 Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) eKIPASS "audio, signal, multi, channel, configuration, extension, CLD(Channel Level Difference, ICC(Inter Channel Coherences), CPC(Channel Prediction Coefficients)"				
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT				
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.		
X	WO 03/090207 A1 (KONINKLIJKE PHILIPS ELECTRONICS N.V.) 30 October 2003 See Abstract, Claims 1,4-5	1, 11		
A	WO 03/090208 A1 (KONINKLIJKE PHILIPS ELECTRONICS N.V.) 30 October 2003 See the whole document	1, 11		
A	US 2003/0035553 A1 (Frank Baumgarte et al.) 20 February 2003 See the whole document	1, 11		
A	WO 03/090206 A1 (KONINKLIJKE PHILIPS ELECTRONICS N.V.) 30 October 2003 See the whole document	1, 11		
P,A	US 2006/0116886 A1 (Junghoe Kim et al.) 01 June 2006 See the whole document	1, 11		
<input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.				
<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top; border: none;"> * Special categories of cited documents: "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top; border: none;"> "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art "&" document member of the same patent family </td> </tr> </table>			* Special categories of cited documents: "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art "&" document member of the same patent family
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Date of the actual completion of the international search 17 NOVEMBER 2006 (17.11.2006)		Date of mailing of the international search report 20 NOVEMBER 2006 (20.11.2006)		
Name and mailing address of the ISA/KR  Korean Intellectual Property Office 920 Dunsan-dong, Seo-gu, Daejeon 302-701, Republic of Korea Facsimile No. 82-42-472-7140		Authorized officer KIM, Yong Woong Telephone No. 82-42-481-5698 		

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No.

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